

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 4-7 are amended.

In particular, Claim 7 is amended to correspond with allowed Claim 1. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Acknowledgment of Certified Copy of Priority Document

The Office Action Summary mailed 14 August 2002, does not acknowledge receipt of the Certified Copy of the Priority Document that was filed on 08 March 2001 with the application.

Applicants respectfully request written acknowledgment that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office received the Certified Copy of the Priority Document.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,428,549 to Chen (Chen). The Examiner also rejects Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,272,462 to Teyssandier, *et al.* (Teyssandier). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 7 recites features similar to those recited in allowed Claim 1, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

In addition to the reasons stated by the Examiner in numbered section 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen further fails to disclose or suggest Claim 7 for at least the additional reasons below.

Applicants note that Chen does not disclose a stability margin value of a transmission network, but is concerned instead with a post-fault analysis. The portion

Chen cited by the Examiner (column 4, lines 46-50), even when given a "broadest reasonable interpretation", does not disclose "specifications that improve the reliability of the system". This is because Chen refers to a fault location parameter (M) and a fault resistance parameter (RF), for the example the resistance bypassing the load resistance. As clearly evidenced by Figure 3 of Chen, Chen's fault location parameter (M) and fault resistance parameter (RF) relate to the place and extent or character of a fault that has seriously affected the system. Accordingly, Chen fails to disclose or suggest a stability margin value of a transmission network, as recited in Claim 7.

In addition, Chen fails to disclose or suggest voltages and currents measured at a plurality of locations of the network, and fails to disclose or suggest that the measured voltages and currents are transmitted to a system protection center, as recited in Claim 7. In contrast, Chen teaches that current and voltage samples are taken close to the location of the relay. See Chen at column 5, line 24. The current and voltage transducers disclosed in Chen (elements 10 in Figure 5 of Chen) relate to three different phases (a, b, c) and the neutral current (I_n) (see column 10, line 56), but *not to different positions*. Chen does not transmit a measured phasor to a place far from its measurement location, and thus avoids a synchronization problem solved by the present invention.

Teyssandier fails to overcome the deficiencies of Chen described above.

For at least the above reasons, Chen and Teyssandier, when considered both separately and in combination, fail disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in Claim 7. Claims 8-9 depend from Claim 7, and are therefore likewise allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 7 and

9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Chen and of the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chen in view of Teyssandier is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration on the merits and prompt allowance are respectfully requested. In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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By: 
M. David Ream
Registration No. 35,333

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620